



STATE OF VERMONT  
Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

**VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Capitol Plaza Conference Center, Governor's Ballroom, 100 State Street, Montpelier**  
**November 20, 2007**

*The State Board of Education shall sustain a vision of high skills, creative thinking, and love of knowledge and learning for every student by setting education policy that ensures student achievement in a safe and healthy learning environment.*

**Approved Minutes – November 20, 2007**

**Present: Board Members: Tom James, Chair; Ruth Stokes, vice-chair; William Corrow; Brian Vachon; Kathy Larsen**

*NOTE: Due to inclement weather, several Board members were not in attendance at the start of the meeting. Their arrival times have been noted throughout this document.*

**DOE: Commissioner Richard Cate; Deputy Commissioner Brian O'Regan; Carol King; Jill Remick; Jo Busha; Gail Taylor; Mark Oettinger; Shevonne Travers; Susan Hayes; Kathy Blanchard; Heather Schneider; Kerry Garber**

**Others: Sherry Gile, VT-NEA; Charles Parmalee, ACT; Dwight Davis, VISA; Steve Kimball, Kimball, Sherman and Ellis; Peter Herman; Sharon Lee Trefry; Teachers and Principals from around the state**

**Preliminaries**

**Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance**

Tom James, chair called the meeting to order at 8:56 a.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Item B: Roll Call and Introductions**

Chair James and Board members introduced themselves, as did others in attendance.

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**Item C: Public to be Heard**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

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**Item D: Announcements; Board Member Updates (Chair, Board Members)**

Kathy Larsen reported that she attended the November 15<sup>th</sup> statewide school calendar hearing in Springfield.

Tom James reported that he attended the November 13 statewide school calendar meeting in Essex. He also attended the new Professional Standards Board meeting that same day in Randolph and suggested a Board member continue to attend each VSBPE meeting to stay connected.

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#### **Item F: October Monthly Report**

Chair James reminded the audience that this report is an opportunity for the Board to share its work with its constituencies as part of the Board's communications strategy and to keep the Board's work in the public eye. It is also available on the Department of Education's Web site: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/schedule.html>.

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#### **Item G: Commissioner's Update (Richard Cate)**

Richard Cate, commissioner, updated the Board on the November 19<sup>th</sup> *Burlington Free Press* article on Winooski High School and its efforts to change the model of high school. He felt this was closely correlated to the transformation work in which the Board is currently engaged. He spoke with the superintendent to obtain further detail, and will continue to closely monitor Winooski as a model of high school transformation. He also invited the superintendent and principal to speak to the Board at a future meeting.

Cate noted that the department has been receiving feedback on the statewide calendar. Brian O'Regan is facilitating the regional meetings. Cate indicated that the issues being raised are not things they have any control over, rather they are outlined in statute.

Governance: Cate reported that he will be filing his report with the Legislature by December 1; it will be shared with the Board at that time.

The last of the 14 Poverty Council meetings will be held this evening in St. Johnsbury.

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### **Action Items**

#### **Item H: Consent Agenda**

**Document(s):** Consent Agenda items

**Motion:** Stokes moved, Vachon seconded, to approve the consent agenda with comment.

1. **Minutes of October 16, 2007 SBE Meeting**
2. **a. Capital Construction (Cathy Hilgendorf; Bill Talbott)**

<u>Project Number</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
C-464	Springfield Town School District	\$ 1,005,000.00
C-465	Springfield Town School District	\$ 1,922,948.00
C-467	Ripton Town School District	\$ 6,000.00
C-468	Manchester Town School District	\$ 67,298.00

#### **b. Rule 6139.6 Waiver Request (Central Elementary School, Bellows Falls)**

3. **Independent School Actions** (Kerry Garber, Pat Pallas Gray)  
**General and Special Education Approval**  
Community Schoolhouse, Brattleboro  
  
**General Independent Kindergarten Approval**  
Mary Johnson Children's Center, Middlebury  
  
**General Independent School Approval**  
The Mountain School at Winhall, Bondville (Grades K-8)  
  
**General Independent School Approval Amendment**  
The Renaissance School, Shelburne (serve students in grade seven)  
  
**Acknowledgement of Independent School Closure**  
Sacred Heart School, Newport
4. **Appointments to the Vermont Comprehensive Health Education and Wellness Advisory Council (CHEWAC)** (Lindsay Simpson, Shevonne Travers)

The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

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### **Discussion Items**

**Item H: Healthy Eating Symposium – Update** (Kathy Larsen, Shevonne Travers, Jo Busha)

**Document(s):** White Sheet and accompanying information

**Discussion:** Kathy Larsen and Jo Busha summarized the work of the NASBE (National Association of State Boards of Education) Healthy Eating Symposium and how that relates to the work of the Board. They developed an action plan for the Board to support healthy school environments. Sharon Lee Trefry noted that more control over vending machines and school fundraising foods would also be beneficial. The Board may engage in further discussion at a later date.

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9:15 a.m. - Member Fayneese Miller arrived.

9:27 a.m. - Member Jessica Bullock arrived.

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**Item I: FY 09 Budget – Preliminary Review** (Richard Cate)

Richard Cate updated the Board on the proposed FY 09 budget, operating on a level funded budget with a small cut (and a bit more after taking into account inflation). The only item the Board had requested was the science assessment funding which will remain. Federal funds increased slightly; school districts do not always spend their federal funding in a timely manner so some funds do accumulate. The notable change is in the Education Fund - which is purely a formula-based result. The general fund appropriation for the department of education operating budget is only half of one percent. It is anticipated that this item will be discussed in December as well.

**Item J: 2007 EEO Report - Preliminary Review** (Brian O'Regan, Richard Cate)

Brian O'Regan, deputy commissioner, discussed the EEO (Equal Educational Opportunity) Report with the Board. This is the second iteration of the report because the first report was in financial terminology and included two different sets of data with which to make a comparison. In addition, the Board had asked, in August 2006, for an executive summary of the final report. Much of this current report involved student performance results and the results of an SQS survey. It is anticipated that this item will be discussed and voted on at the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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9:46 a.m. - Member Susan Schill arrived.

9:56 a.m. - Member Tess Savage arrived.

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**Item K: SBE Focus Topic: School Quality Standards** (Richard Cate, Brian O'Regan, Gail Taylor, Kath Blanchard, Susan Hayes)

**Document(s):** PowerPoint information.

**Discussion:** This item was postponed until December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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**Items L and M: Desired State Discussion with Educators and Principals - *How Are the Children? A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont*** (Board Members, Richard Cate, Brian O'Regan)

Discussion Members of the department's leadership team acted as facilitators during these roundtable discussions with educators in the morning and principals during the afternoon. Twenty teachers and 20 principals from around the state came to the meeting to participate in these sessions. Board members participated in each discussion group. Following the hour-long discussions in break-out groups, Board members reported out on what their groups discussed. Questions addressed included:

- *As you envision a transformed learning environment for the students of Vermont what current practices should be included in a transformed education system that would best serve the needs of all students?*
- *As you envision a transformed learning environment for the students of Vermont what new practices should be included?*
- *What questions does the document, ***A Step toward the Transformation of Education in Vermont***, raise for you as ***an educator? A principal?****

Between the group sessions, educators and principals attending joined Board members for lunch.

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2:55 p.m. - Member Bill Corrow left the meeting

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**Item N: Pre K Rules: Initiation of the Rule Making Process** (Richard Cate, Steve Dale, Mark Oettinger)

**Document(s):** Green Sheet; Draft Pre-K Rules

**Discussion:** Richard Cate and Steve Dale, Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families, reviewed the development of the Pre K Rules, and provided an overview of some of

the more contentious areas. For the most part, issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Pre-K Committee.

**Motion:** Schill moved, Bullock seconded, that the State Board of Education vote to initiate the rulemaking process for the draft pre-kindergarten rules which have been jointly prepared by the Department of Education and the Department for Children and Families. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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**Item O: Wrap Up and Future Agendas** (Richard Cate, Carol King)

**Document(s):** Building 07-08

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed proposed items for its December 18, 2007 and January 15, 2008 meetings.

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**Adjourn**

**Motion:** At 3:55 p.m., Vachon moved, Miller seconded, to adjourn the November 20, 2007 meeting of the State Board of Education, The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

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**Item P: Written Items Attached**

1. Construction annual prioritized list and draft FY 08 capital budget Request (C. Hilgendorf; B. Talbott)
2. High/Low Spending Special Education Districts (K. Edwards, D. Dows)
3. Vermont Business Roundtable *Having the Courage to Change*

Minutes prepared by Carol King/Jill Remick